

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claim listings in this application.

1–20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A therapeutic method comprising ~~causing (a) providing to~~ an adult subject having a medically diagnosed dementia ~~to use as a cognitive activity aid~~ a kit that comprises a plurality of separate pieces that have surface layers formed collectively of a plurality of soft fabrics that are distinguishable by touch and/or subsurface layers that are distinguishable by touch through a lightweight surface fabric when handled by the subject; ~~wherein (a) said pieces are suitable for arrangement by the subject in a simple assembly or construction pastime, puzzle or game; (b) said pieces being soft on all sides and~~ said kit [[has]] means for engaging said pieces to other such pieces or on a rack, wherein when so engaged the pieces resist accidental disarrangement; and ~~(e) said use (b) encouraging and/or assisting the subject to arrange separate pieces from the kit in a simple assembly or construction pastime, puzzle or game, wherein said pastime, puzzle or game provides a therapeutically beneficial cognitive challenge appropriate to the subject's mental acuity.~~
22. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 21 ~~comprising causing the subject to use said kit~~, wherein the kit provided to the subject has means for engaging the pieces to other such pieces.
23. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 22 ~~comprising causing the subject to use said kit~~, wherein said engaging means comprises an attaching means in an edge region of each of the pieces, the attaching means not requiring a high level of cognitive and/or manual dexterity.
24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23 ~~comprising causing the subject to use said kit~~, wherein the attaching means is selected from the group consisting of stitching, lacing, buttons, studs, snaps, hook and loop fastening strips, Velcro™ and zippers.
25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23 ~~comprising causing the subject to use~~

~~said kit~~, wherein the pieces are soft fabric patches, and wherein the kit comprises a plurality of said patches, each patch being attachable along an edge thereof to one or more other patches to form a patchwork article.

26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 21 ~~comprising causing the subject to use~~ ~~said kit~~, wherein the kit provided to the subject further comprises a rack, and has means for engaging the pieces at a plurality of loci on the rack.
27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 26 ~~comprising causing the subject to use~~ ~~said kit~~, wherein the rack comprises a frame that defines a shape of an aperture adapted to receive a plurality of the pieces, said plurality of pieces being individually of such sizes and shapes as to fit together to form the shape of the aperture.
28. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 26 ~~comprising causing the subject to use~~ ~~said kit~~, wherein the rack comprises a frame having a plurality of apertures, each adapted to receive one of the pieces.
29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 28 comprising causing the subject to ~~use~~ ~~said kit to play~~ arrange the pieces in a simple game.
30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 26 ~~comprising causing the subject to use~~ ~~said kit~~, wherein the rack comprises a plurality of pegs arranged to define a plurality of receiving areas for the pieces.
31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 30 ~~comprising causing the subject to use~~ ~~said kit~~, wherein the pieces each comprise a swatch of soft fabric perforated by a plurality of eyelets in an arrangement adapted to engage the pegs.
32. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 38 ~~comprising causing the subject to use~~ ~~said kit~~, wherein each of said pieces has opposing surface layers formed of soft fabrics having differing tactility.
33. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 38 ~~comprising causing the subject to use~~ ~~said kit~~, wherein the soft fabric forming each surface layer of the pieces is independently selected from the group consisting of knitted, woven, piliferous and

spongiform textiles and real and simulated furs, skins and leathers.

34. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 33 ~~comprising causing the subject to use said kit~~, wherein at least one soft fabric forming a surface layer is a piliferous fabric.
35. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 34 ~~comprising causing the subject to use said kit~~, wherein the piliferous fabric is made from natural and/or synthetic fibers.
36. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 35 ~~comprising causing the subject to use said kit~~, wherein the piliferous fabric is selected from the group consisting of astrakhan, baize, chenille, corduroy, duffel, flannel, flannelette, fleece, fustian, moleskin, plush, shag, terry, toweling, velour, velveret, velvet and velveteen.
37. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 35 ~~comprising causing the subject to use said kit~~, wherein the piliferous fabric is a fur or simulation thereof.
38. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 21 ~~comprising causing the subject to use said kit~~, wherein [[said]] the kit provided to the subject comprises a plurality of pieces [[have]] having surface layers formed collectively of a plurality of soft fabrics that are distinguishable by touch when handled by the subject.